

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01

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INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: GATT, ETRD, ID

SUBJECT: RENEGOTIATION OF INDONESIA'S GATT SCHEDULE

REF: GENEVA 5724

1. AT NOVEMBER 21 GATT COUNCIL, INDONESIA PLANS PRESENT REQUEST TO EXTEND WAIVER TO END 1976. THIS REQUEST WILL BE MADE REGARDLESS OF WHETHER INDONESIA PURSUES COURSE INDICATED IN REFTEL, SINCE IF THEY DID NOT, ARTICLE XXVIII NEGOTIATIONS WOULD HAVE TO BE CARRIED OUT.

2. INDONESIA MISSION (AWUY) AGAIN APPEALED TO US TO SUPPORT WAIVER FOR INDONESIA LIKE 1956 BRAZIL WAIVER MENTIONED IN REFTEL. AWUY SAID INDONESIA TARIFF BINDINGS ARE RESIDUE FROM DUTCH COLONIAL DAYS AND ALL WERE NEGOTIATED PRIOR TO 1949 INDEPENDENCE. HE NOTED THAT INDONESIA HAD NOT PARTICIPATED IN ANY SUBSEQUENT GATT NEGOTIATING ROUNDS, ALTHOUGH THERE WAS ONE ARTICLE XXVIII RENEGOTIATION IN 1962. HE SAID INDONESIA WISHES REMOVE ALL OF ITS TARIFF BIND-

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INGS AND FULLY UNDERSTANDS THAT OTHER COUNTRIES -- FOLLOW-

ING ON 1956 BRAZIL WAIVER PRECEDENT -- WOULD ALSO BE OBLIGATED TO WITHDRAW THEIR OWN BINDINGS. HE INDICATED THIS WAS FINE, AS INDONESIA BINDINGS IN OTHER COUNTRIES' MARKETS AFFECT SUCH PRODUCTS AS QUININE, A PRODUCT INDONESIA NO LONGER SUPPLIES IN ANY EVENT.

3. AWUY THEN WENT ON TO SAY INDONESIA MIGHT WISH BEGIN A FRESH ROUND OF TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS WITH ITS GATT TRADING PARTNERS IN WHICH IT WOULD GIVE AND ACCEPT BINDINGS. WE EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT INDONESIA WOULD PROPOSE THIS LATTER STEP AT A TIME WHEN MTN IS UNDER WAY. WE SAID THIS SORT OF NEGOTIATION WAS ONE OF PRINCIPLE REASONS THAT MTN HAD BEEN UNDERTAKEN.

4. COMMENT: FAVORABLE MISSION REACTION TO INDONESIAN PROPOSAL FOR WAIVER ALONG LINES 1956 BRAZIL WAIVER WAS CONTAINED REFTEL. HOWEVER WITH RESPECT TO INDONESIAN PROPOSAL TO BEGIN A NEW ROUND OF TARIFF NEGOTIATIONS ON ITS OWN, WE FEEL, AND MTN DEL GENEVA AGREES, THAT WE SHOULD ENCOURAGE INDONESIA TO BLEND THEIR NEGOTIATING DESIRES INTO MTN. WE HAVE SOME DOUBT WHETHER JAKARTA HAS YET AGREED TO DESIRABILITY OF INDONESIA'S OWN SEPARATE TRADE NEGOTIATIONS, BUT OFFICIALS FROM INDONESIAN CAPITAL EXPECTED IN GENEVA IN NEAR FUTURE. MEANWHILE WASHINGTON REACTION WOULD BE WELCOMED. ABRAMS

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